

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A file management device for ~~managing~~, managing files recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file is made up of entries for extracted text which is extracted from files recorded in the recording medium, entries for thumbnail images extracted from the files recorded in the recording medium, entries for property information including hierarchy management information which expresses a hierarchical structure of the files and a folder recorded on the recording medium, registration information which indicates files belonging to the folder by pointing to entries, and virtual folder information that indicates whether or not the folder is a virtual folder;

wherein the file management device retrieves the entries of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the retrieved file, along with the conditions for retrieval, in the index file; and

wherein, when the entry for the retrieval result is registered, information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result is set in the index file,

wherein the hierarchy management information is set so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected, and the registration information is set to point to an entry of the retrieved file.

2. (Previously Presented) A file managing method of managing files recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file is made up of entries for extracted text which is extracted from files recorded in the recording medium, entries for property information including hierarchy management information which expresses a hierarchical structure of the files and a folder recorded on the recording medium, registration information which indicates files belonging to the folder by pointing to entries, and virtual folder information that indicates whether or not the folder is a virtual folder; and

said method comprising:

a step of retrieving the entries of the index file according to retrieval conditions set by a user to select a file registered in the index file;

a step of registering, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result about the retrieved file in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval;

a step of setting information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result in the index file, and

a step of setting the hierarchy management so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected; and

a step of setting the registration information to point to an entry of the retrieved file.

3. (Previously presented) The file managing method according to claim 2, wherein retrieval of the entries of the index file in the retrieving step is performed by refining the conditions for retrieval registered in the entry for the retrieval result.

4. (Cancel)

5. (Cancel)

6. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein retrieval of the entries of the index file in the retrieving step is performed by refining the conditions for retrieval registered in the entry for the result of retrieval.

7. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein in a retrieval processing, when the file management device determines that the conditions for retrieval are identical to any of those already registered in the virtual folder, the file management device displays the retrieval result performed in past under the identical conditions for retrieval.

8. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein updating date is registered in the entry for the virtual folder.

9. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 8, wherein the file management device determines that the number of entries for retrieval results is larger than a predetermined number, the file management device deletes an entry with the oldest update date.